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R U S T I C U S.

THE Exportation of One Hundred and Thirty Thousand Pounds in Gold, into the Gulf of *Holland*, in One Month and Eight Days last past, as appears by our Bills of Entry; with a fair Surmise, that a greater quantity hath been Clandestinely Ship'd off, as likewise a large quantity of Silver, being join'd to the difficulty, that the Woollen-Manufacturers of this Kingdom, for a considerable time, last past, hath been under, in getting Silver for Gold, and that without some speedy supply of Silver Coin in Shillings and Six-pences, this noble Commerce which Providence hath happily blest us with, must inevitably sink; will be a fair Justification of this Rural Address. When so violent a Draught is upon us in Silver and Gold, we can expect no supply from Foreign Importation, nor will a total stop to the Exportation relief, when Silver and Gold is as well taken in at *Cadiz* as here, to supply the Occasions of those Trades which drain our Treasure. When *St. Paul* preach'd down the Temple of *Diana*, the *Silver-Smiths* exerted their whole Strength to support their Profit, and as now left no Stone unturn'd to Maintain their Ground. Even reprinted *Dr. Lock's Republican Position*, that Authority had no power in altering the value of our Silver. What (in great Submission) I offer at, is an immediate Advance of our Silver Coin, and a Security to it when Coin'd. The Ounce of Silver which from *Ozlwright* the *Saxon King* continued for many Hundred Years at Twenty-Pence; was advanced to Thirty-Pence in the Second Year of King *Henry* the 6th; it was advanced to Forty-Pence by King *Edward* the 4th; to Forty Five-Pence and Forty Eight-Pence in the Reign of King *Henry* the 8th; and to Sixty-Pence by King *Edward* the 6th. The Ground upon which these Advances were made, could be no other, then the keeping an Equality with Foreign Standards with whom we Traded. And by this Rule (which was strenuously urg'd) at the last new Coinage of our Silver, our Standard ought to be advanced to Sixty Five-Pence, to equal the Rix-Dollars of *Germany*, and *Holland*, and the Crown piece of *France*. This being undeniable matter of Fact, his Majesty's Proclamation in adjusting this important Affair, in an Equality with Foreign Standards, and giving that Advantage to those of his own Subjects, that brought Plate to be Coined into Shillings and Sixpences, it would immediately advance a Stock of Silver Coin, and be a relief to Trade, allowing the advance to our Silver Coin now standing, (which I take to be much less then reported by some) unto a limited time, that it might be new Stamp'd; which advantage being strictly limited to his Majesties Natural Born Subjects it could not be look'd upon with an ill Eye, altho' an easy Profit; by this expedient, according to our nice Politicians, we shall have as much for our Crown as it Weighs, and it will be some small security against its being melted down. And as I have been here Labouring for this conveniency to Negotiate this noble Fabrick of ours. I am now to fix this Treasure of our Silver Coin by an expedient which is much more Advantageous to our Woollen-Manufactory. And in order to this, I must beg leave to recite the Restrictions under which the Flourishing Trade of Queen *Elizabeth* was carried on. All Interest of Money was stop'd by her Brother King *Edward* the 6th, which turn'd Drones into Bees. The Wear of Silks was stop'd by her Sister Queen *Mary*, by all Persons under the degree of Quality, and if any Servant wore any Silk, if the Master did not put her forth of her Service in Fourteen Days, or did retain her again, he forfeited One Hundred Pounds. By a Law made in the Fifth Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, no Foreign Fabrick could be sold otherwise than for ready Money. And in the Thirteen Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, it was Enacted, that every Person above the Age of Seven Years, shall wear upon the Sabbath and Holy-Day, a Knit Cap made of the Wool of this Kingdom, under the Penalty of Ten Groats for every Day not wearing it, except Maids, Ladies, &c. What I now, in great Submission, propose, is the Revival of this last Act, in changing the Name of Cap to Hat; in the making of which, we are now come to great Perfection, and there can be no more decent Distinction or becoming Dress to our Women. This Hat will be like the Stern of a Ship, guide all other Habits of the Body, and introduce the wear of the Fine-Flaxen-Linnens of *Germany*, *Flanders* and *Holland* Lace, &c. which are the Natural Effects of our Woollen-Manufacture, and stop the wear of Muslings; to purchase which, our Silver is now issued out, and what I farther propose, is, a strict Injunction of the wear of the Woollen-Manufacture of this Kingdom by all Servants for their upper Garments, with a Penalty upon the Master if the said Act was not complied with; as was the Case of Silk in the Reign of Queen *Mary*. In the most Flourishing Reigns of this Kingdom, as *Edward* the 3d, *Edward* the 4th, *Henry* the 7th, *Edward* the 6th, and Queen *Elizabeth*; we were under Sumptuary Laws and a total stop put to the Cotton Commodities of *India*; and Presidents are safe rules to walk by. And as this Distinction will tend to the Encouragement of our own Products, and be a means to keep the Ballance of Trade upon our side, and secure our Silver Coin, it will likewise be an inducement to Virtue and Good Manners, and Servants will not think themselves above their proper Employments.

*In Kersey Joan her Pot did Scower,
Dress'd in Callico, she look'd demure;
Despis'd that Work, she got it done,
By Wife well stuff'd of Thrasher John.*

Sic cefinit mus Rusticus & redit in rurem.

RUSTICUS.

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